

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 2003-029
DATE: March 31, 2003 Time 5:15 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential Dam Failure – Work continues by contractors and officials from the Cavalier Water Resource Board, the State Water Commission (SWC), and federal technicians representing the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to retain as much of the pool at Mt. Carmel Dam even though the control structure has been compromised.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported in North Dakota.
3. DAMAGES: Water continues to flow under the spillway causing internal erosion at the base of Mount Carmel Dam.

SWC staff members in partnership with federal officials from USACE and NRCS are determining options for repair or restoration. Major concerns currently identified are project costs and the long term impacts on the water supply for the city of Langdon.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: In addition to previous reports, representatives from the NRCS are providing technical assistance.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A large crane has been deployed to the scene to help stabilize the Mt. Carmel Dam embankment. This is in addition to two excavators, pumps, and staff personnel. A makeshift earthen berm has been constructed around the spillway structure to help delay erosion. The old principal spillway was opened and water flow through the pipe is approximately 100 cubic feet per second (csf) thereby, reducing pressure on the dam.

Officials from the SWC indicate a significant portion of the pool remains; however, it will be days before success of ongoing efforts to stabilize the dam can be determined.

N.D. Division of Emergency Management (NDDEM) officials processed a request for technical assistance from the USACE.

The N.D. Department of Transportation working in conjunction with the N.D. Highway Patrol has waived heavy load restrictions for vehicles assisting with dam construction.

As a precaution, Pembina County officials have supplied 45,000 sandbags and a sandbag machine to the city of Walhalla, 25,000 sandbags to the city of Leroy, and 15,00 sandbags to the city of Neche.

Cavalier County officials have identified four bridges, four township roads, two county roads, and one large culvert that may be impacted.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: In addition to previous reports, representatives from the NRCS are on scene.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director